

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 EUR-25 EB-11 OMB-01 /144 W

----- 115117

R 301500Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3234

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 3709

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SEL, JM, CH

SUBJECT: PRC AMBASSADOR PRESENTS GIFT TO PM'S DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

REF: KINGSTON 3625 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO A FRONT-PAGE STORY WITH A PHOTO IN THE
SUNDAY GLEANER, PRC AMBASSADOR LI CHAO ON OCTOBER 2
PRESENTED A DONATION OF 100,000 YUAN (APPROX J\$47,213.99)
TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S "SUFFERERS" FUND, WHICH WAS ESTAB-
LISHED FOR RELIEF OF THE VICTIMS OF THE TORRENTIAL RAINS
CAUSED BY TROPICAL STORM GILDA TWO WEEKS AGO. THE DONATION
WAS PRESENTED TO MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE DUDLEY THOMPSON WHO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "A
FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED." A PERSON ONLY REALLY
KNOWS YOUR TRUE FRIENDS WHEN YOU ARE IN TROUBLE."

2. CHINESE DONATION FOLLOWS THOSE OF OTHER MAJOR
NATIONS IN THE PAST WEEK: US-\$5,000; CANADA-\$1,800;
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AND UK-\$2,000.

3. COMMENT. WHILE THE CHINESE DONATION IS GENUINELY APPRECIATED BY THE GOJ, ITS MAGNITUDE AND THE FACT THAT DUDLEY THOMPSON RECEIVED IT RATHER THAN THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO RECEIVED THE US, CANADIAN AND UK DONATIONS, RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT CHINESE MOTIVATIONS AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S REASONS FOR DUCKING THE PRESENTATION. THE PRC MISSION IN KINGSTON HAS, THUS FAR, PLAYED A VERY LOW KEY ROLE. FOR THOSE WHO EXPECTED GREAT THINGS TO ARISE FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF TRADE AND AID, THE PRC PERFORMANCE, THUS FAR MUST HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTING. THE CHINESE, THEREFORE, MAY HAVE SEEN THE SUFFERERS' FUND AS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN SOME FAVORABLE PUBLICITY AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY IN FACT INTEND TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN JAMAICA

4. AS TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTITUDE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WISHED TO AVOID, IN VIEW OF THE FLACK HE RECEIVED FROM HIS ALGIERS SOJOURN, FURTHER IDENTIFICATION WITH CHINA AND THE THIRD WOLRD. IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL SUM INVOLVED, HE ALSO MAY HAVE WISHED TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE MIGHT BE POLITICAL STRINGS ATTACHED TO THE GIFT AND, THEREFORE, LEFT THE TASK TO THOMPSON WHO THRIVES ON THIS SORT OF THING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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